

4 AUG 1958

OVERCROWDING AT BILLERICAY SECONDARY SCHOOL.

Overcrowding has reached such an extent that pupils from local primary schools that who failed the Entrance Exam this year will have to travel to schools at Basildon and Wickford. This is the result of overcrowding at Billericay Secondary School.

FORTY FACTORIES FOR BILLERICAY. Parade of Shops and Block of Flats Planned.

A £1,000,000 plan for the building of forty factories, a block of flats and a parade of shops to be erected on land between the Railway Station and Lake Meadows has been accepted by Basildon U.D. Council "in principle". It is intended

that the work shall commence in November and will take two and a half years to complete. The Lyon Group are the originators of the scheme. Workers for the factory will be imported into Billericay from East London. Many readers of the 'Billericay Observer' have very strongly protested against the scheme and the Editor has notified the Council For The Presevation Of Rural England on the subject.

MR A. SPEIRS.

Mr A. Speirs of Electric House, Crown Corner, Billericay died suddenly in an ambulance which was taking him to hospital on Saturday July 26th. Mr Speirs was 56 years of age and had lived in Billericay since 1928. He built up an electrical business of his own and at one time owned four shops in the area. One of the shops in High Street, Billericay was recently sold to Egan Bros of Wickford.

COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BASILDON.

The July meeting of Basildon U.D. Council was held at Basildon on July 31st. This is the first council meeting to be held in Basildon New Town and was held at the Timberlog Lane Secondary School. It is proposed that in the future the February and July council meetings be held in Basildon. When the new Town Hall in Basildon is built all Council meetings will be held there instead of at the Council Offices, Billericay. It has been suggested at council meetings and Ratepayers Associations meetings that one meeting a year be held at Wickford. The council's reply to this idea is that there is a frequent road and rail service between Wickford and Billericay but not between Billericay and Laindon, Pitsea and all other areas of the Basildon New Town.

16 PEOPLE HURT IN BUS COLLISION.

16 people were taken to hospital when two buses were involved in a head-on collision in Hickstall Lane, Bekl Hill recently. One bus swerved to avoid a stationary car and collided with the other bus.

FLOODING REASONS.

The reasons for the recent floods at Wickford and along the River Wid are given in a report issued by Basildon U.D. Council. In the case of Stock Road, Billericay and in other cases it was due to neglected watercourses and culverts.

ROUND AND ABOUT

by
'Wanderer'.

The topsy-turvy muddled way that dooms are being predicted. Bus Routes are being cut, less buses on the road, buses are doomed we must get people on the railways. What of the railways? They are too predicting doom. The canals are almost dead. Is all transport doomed? Another example is entertainment. More theatres close - the theatre is doomed. The Cinema is done for... Millions are leaving Radio The era of the newspaper is over (we don't hope). And what big brother is emptying the cinemas, dance halls and Ratepayer's Ass's. Television! Ah well,

We'll go home if....

What pleasure people get from going to Lake Meadows in the crowds, joining an 300-yard long line for Ice Cream I don't know. Lake Meadows is crowded out. Also when they get there they are not happy. One only has to walk through Lake Meadows to hear "Gordon, come back here at once," "We'll go home if you...." "Stop being silly".

And are the children doing anything wrong? Generally no. And of course they have to perform that ancient ritual of throwing LITTER on the ground or in the Lake. And talking about litter we are organising a new campaign which will start on the same day as the new Litter Act. Any interested person should ask the Editor for details.

All for now,

Wanderer

THE WANDERER WELCOMES
CORRESPONDENCE.

POLITICAL LANDSCAPE.

The Socialists have produced yet another plan to handicap private enterprise and industry. In this plan the "few hundred firms which dominate the private sector of industry," would be associated with a State Board Of Control which would have power over the firms business. Large dividends for shareholders would be discouraged. Director's Boards would have power only in day to day affairs. If the socialists were in power-well. We ought to encourage enterprise, particularly from young people. But of course Socialists which control

some County Councils soon put a stop to that with a new series of 'Youth Protection' and 'Child Employment' Laws.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE.....

Part 3.

The Law strode up to the loft and looked around. The story so far;

Bill and Tony run their own radio station in the village of Little Bigglesworth. They are

accused by Major Burt of interrupting with their programmes his 'Archers'. Major Burt had called in the law and twenty minutes later P.C. 22 of Little Bigglesworth came into the farmyard at that quick speed of 5m.p.h with a screeching of rusty brakes.

The P.C. came up to the barn loft followed by Major Burt. And what crime have the accused committed", said P.C. 22 looking at Bill and Tony and looking official (well, trying to) with notebook in hand. The effect was ruined by hitting his head on the rafters. "They ruined my 'Archers' just when the cows got out!". "We have rectified the trouble now" said Tony. "Have you got a radio transmission licence"?, asked P.C. 22.

TURN TO NEXT PAGE.

SEAGULLS AND FISHERS.

A non-fiction story. Part 2.

A long time passed and at last the bus came round the hill. Now you would have thought that a village bus would be a ramshackle. It was nothing like it.... a 'de luxe' type coach drew up and a sliding door opened. We climbed in and sank in luxurious seats. And off we went..... After a while we stopped outside a row of cottages. The driver sounded his horn: Result chicken looks out of shed. Driver uses horn: Chicken remains looking out of shed. Driver climbs out and knocks on door. Reappears with customer plus box. This was repeated again at several different times. Ah well, anything for custom. THE END.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE.....

Part 3 continued.

"Yes", chorused Tony and Bill. "You do not intend to commit a breach of the Official Secrets Act or broadcast such as to disturb the peace or commit slander" said P.C.22, making a very vain attempt to look official. "No we don't", said Bill. "H'mm", P.C.22, mumbled turning to Major Burt, "They haven't committed a breach of the Law, I don't like false alarms as I have to make out a full report". "Major Burt Accused the above in the Parish of Bigglesworth Manse, in the Rural District of Mich-le-gard-on-Childe....." mumbled P.C.22. "I don't know what the police force are coming too" said Major Burt. "Stupid". "Are you aware that you are lowering the character of one of Her Majesty's Police of the County of Sussex Police". "Bah!... by gad" and the head of Major D.K. Burt disappeared from the scene followed by P.C.22. "Well that's the trouble with Major Burt over" said Tony. "Yes", replied Bill. He did not know how wrong he was.

NEXT EDITION: MORE TROUBLE WITH MAJOR BURT!

PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL ESTATE EXPANSION.

'Billericay Observer' inquiry and opinion investigation. Public Opinion in Billericay, particularly in the Perry Street and Mountnessing Road areas has turned against the proposed industrial expansion in the area between Lake Meadows, The Railway Station and Ricketts Drive. Many people have contacted the 'Billericay Observer' and asked for a petition. One person I asked what their opinion was about the Industrial Estate expansion said "We came down here to live in the country and get away from the smoke and smog and we would rather travel than have factories in Billericay". I think that three more factories of light industry and with suitable protection for trees, making the total number of factories six should be enough. For one thing unless large trees are planted the view from Lake Meadows Recreation Ground, which is a beauty spot, would be spoiled. Also other views would be spoilt. I have yet to encounter a resident of the district concerned who approves of the Industrial Estate extension. The Council should worry about that £2628,000 before they worry about extending the Industrial Estate. Other amenities are more important than erecting factories for which the labour will have to be brought from London. Surely the Basildon U.D. Council recognise 300 annoyed inhabitants of Billericay. Yes, New Lighting, Better Roads instead of Pot-holed swamps, the promised new schools and ample protection for the flat areas at Wickford and Buttsbury Wash from floods.

EDITORIAL CORNER.

Dear Readers,
Here is another 'Observer' which I hope you will enjoy. Our more observant readers may have noticed a change. The 'Observer' is printed on different paper. The same size and colour but a different, better and new surface. Now there is one other little thing I want to mention. The 'Observer' has no connection with any school publication.

W. Grant
Editor.

DEAD SHOW JUMPERS SISTER INJURED AT HORSE SHOW.
Mrs Megan Cullen was injured by a fall at Rayleigh Horse Show recently. In June she saw her youngest sister Miss G. Gabriel of Little Burstead killed in a fall.

SIGNAL FAILURE HOLDS UP TRAVELLERS.
A power cut held up late night travellers between Liverpool Street and Southend Victoria on Sunday July 27th.

NOTICE

Up to now the 'Billericay Observer' has been an unperiodical journal but it has been decided that forthwith the newspaper shall become a periodical and will be issued every two weeks on a Tuesday.

GARDENING DEPARTMENT.
Applications for Garden Advice by our Gardening Expert on everything from roses to marrows and paths to ponds are invited and should be sent to Garden Advice, 143, Perry Street, Billericay.

ADDRESS FOR ALL CORRESPONDENCE IS
143, PERRY STREET, BILLERICAY, ESSEX.

Advertising in the 'Billericay Observer' is better value for money. Full details and leaflets from the Editor or Advertising Manager.

STOP PRESS.

C.P.R.E. SEND LETTER TO COUNCIL OVER NEW LITTER ACT.
The Billericay group of the C.P.R.E. (Council For Preservation of Rural England) have sent a letter to Basildon U.D. Council over the new Litter Act, which comes into force on August 7th. It is addressed to the Clerk Of The Council and reads; "The attention of this Group has been drawn to the provisions of the Litter Act which, as you know, comes into force on the 7th August, 1958. My Group would be interested to learn what action the Council proposes to take in order to give effect to their new powers under the Act. My Group are of the opinion that the Council should immediately give publicity to the offences requirements and penalties under the Act, and that they should also take action without delay, in so far as they are able, and whenever the opportunity occurs to enforce the provision of the Act. The C.P.R.E. have been tackling the problem of litter in Billericay for several years and the question of enforcing the Litter Act was raised at their Summer General Meeting."

A 'Billericay Observer' feature on CADBURY'S COCOA AND CHOCOLATE.

(We would like to convey our thanks to Cadbury's Bros Ltd) Everyday you eat or drink one of Cadbury's products. Whether it is a Box of Chocolates for the thearte, Cadbury's Drinking Chocolate for a nightcap or a bar of Dairy Milk for your son you buy one of Cadbury's products. The 'Billericay Observer' is going to attempt to tell you how they are made, transported etc. COCOA. Cocoa is cultivated mainly in Nigeria and Ghana but other sources are French West Africa, Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador, San Dominigo, Trinidad and Ceylon. Cocoa flourishes in a variety of soils but prefers one which is rich, porous and deep. The tree cannot withstand high winds, drought or sudden falls in temprature and it needs shelter or shade. Cocoa Trees come into bearing when they are four or five years old. In size and shape they are not unlike our own English apple trees but the leaves are larger and more luxuriant and the fruit (Cocoa Pods) grows from the trunk as well as from the main branches. There are two harvests in a year. In Ghana the main crop is gathered during October, November and December and there is a much smaller crop between March and May. When the beans have been scooped from the pods they are covered with banana leaves to keep them warm, and left in heaps to ferment for five or six days. Fermentation improves flavour and keeping qualities. The beans are then spread out on babhoo mats and tables and thoroughly dried in the hot sunshine. SUGAR. This may be obtained from Sugar Cane or Sugar Beet. In a typical year sugar for Cadbury's chocolate ~~comes~~ came from Trinidad, Cuba, north-east Australia, Mauritius, Dominican Republic, Natal and British Guina. Sugar Beet is a product of the arable lands of the north temperate zone. There is no difference whatever between the pure sugar made from cane and that from beet. Large quantities of beet have been grown in this country for many years and the finest eating chocolate contains a proportion of British sugar.

TRANSPORT.

In Ghana, where draught animals cannot be used on account of the tsetse fly, whose bite is fatal to horses and cattle, head-loading is still the only means transport in some remote areas. The motor lorry and the railways are, however rapidly supplanting human portage. Another method of transport is by log rafts on swiftly flowing rivers. In Trinidad on the Sugar Plantations, another form of early transport between the fields and refineries is used - the ox-cart. Only Ghana surf boats are able to carry the sacks of Cocoa Beans out to the waiting ships, as the seas off Ghana are very shallow and huge waves break on the shore which only Ghana Surf Boats, driven with quick, powerful paddle thrusts are able to conquer.

MANUFACTURE.

To make chocolate the Mexicans roasted cocoa beans in a pot, cracked them, winnowed the husks away in the wind, and ground shelled beans until they were reduced to a very thick paste. The principles of chocolate manufacture are very similar today but have been greatly improved by various and numerous refinements.



3. Harvesting cocoa beans. See how they grow from the trunk of the tree as well as from the main branches.

CADBURY'S CONTINUED.

Manufacture.

ROASTING. Cocoa beans are roasted in large revolving ovens for about an hour. Roasting brings out the flavour and aroma and makes it easy to winnow away the shells or husks.

GRINDING. Roasted beans are brittle and are broken by rollers into fragments. The shells can be winnowed away in a "artificial wind"

which are known as nib. Nib, is rich in cocoa butter and is then passed through a grinding mill and reduced by heat and pressure to a thick liquid. From this liquid about half of cocoa butter is pressed out, leaving a solid block of pure cocoa which is ground up and then sieved through silk. The excess butter is used for making chocolate.

ADDING SUGAR. Plain eating chocolate is made from cocoa nib, to which sugar and extra cocoa butter is added. These ingredients are ground and mixed together.

ADDING MILK. Only milk solids are used for making Milk Chocolate, so before the milk is added to plain chocolate it must be concentrated. After the addition of milk the chocolate is pumelled backwards and forwards in a machine known as a conche until it is perfectly smooth. The effect of conching is to make chocolate melt in the mouth.

WRAPPING. The "silver paper" in which all Cadbury blocks are wrapped is really aluminium foil. Chocolate blocks are wrapped in foil and labelled by machine at the rate of a hundred a minute.

THE MILK FACTORY. All the milk for Dairy Milk Chocolate comes from British farms but is not sent to the chocolate factory. Instead, chocolate is sent to "milk factories" in dairying districts. There are two reasons for the "milk factories": first they make possible the addition of fresh milk to chocolate within a few hours of milking; second, they make possible the use of "summer surplus" milk (in winter, milk is not so plentiful and is nearly all required for household use). The 'Billerica' Observer have three cocoa pods in their possession and any readers who would like to see them should apply to the Editor.

LETTERS.

Dear Sir,

In reference to your 'Political Landscape' article in your last edition, may I make a few comments. The new Iraq Republic have given a complete guarantee of naturality. The steps they have taken are "in the true spirit of Arab nationalism". The assassination of the Iraq royal family however was unfair and if it was intentional I disagree with it, however accidents can happen. All the same an excellent view and comment.

'Fair Play'.

Dear Sir,

Stop thinking about making a charge. Charge immediately.

J.K.Wall.

Ed: We are considering making a charge but we will review the position first.